

**South Dakota Department of Social Services**  
**Medicaid Tribal Consultation Meeting Minutes**  
**07/25/2023**

**Attendees**

Starla Eleson, Frieda Richard, Lisa Schlosser, Alex Arobba, Mary Johnle, Matthew Ballard, Ellen Durkin, Julie Willcuts, Merissa Leader Charge, Travis Johns, Nicole Schneider, Gil Dog Eagle, Tiffany Larson, Nicole White Wolf, Deborah Charge On Him, Austin Gomez, Nico Sheppard, Kathie St John, Cathy Jefferies, Kathi Mueller, Yvette Thomas, Valerie Kelly, Renae Hericks, Raegan Winder, Roxanne Two Bulls, Stanley La Roque, James Dunhen

**Welcome and Introductions**

Brenda Tidball-Zeltinger, Deputy Cabinet Secretary and Interim Medicaid Director, Department of Social Services (DSS) welcomed the group and everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

**Review Minutes and Updates from April 2023 Meeting**

Matthew Ballard, Deputy Director, Division of Medical Services, DSS reviewed the minutes and indicated that minutes for the meeting can be found online on the [Medicaid Tribal Consultation Website](#).

Brenda led a discussion on the Tribal Consultation meeting structure and the consultation process. Consultation between state government and tribal governments is a key element of the Medicaid program. Brenda indicated consultation can also be requested outside the quarterly tribal consultation meetings and that tribes should feel free to reach out to Ashley Lauing, DSS Policy Strategy Manager at [Ashley.Lauing@state.sd.us](mailto:Ashley.Lauing@state.sd.us) with requests.

Brenda indicated that DSS is re-listing the tribal liaison position as the initial search did not result in hiring a candidate.

- Lisa Schlosser asked if most Medicaid changes discussed at Tribal Consultation come from CMS. Brenda spoke to Medicaid being a federal and state partnership and that many state plan amendment changes that are reviewed at tribal consultation are the result of a federal requirement or change. However, other changes result from state-initiated changes.
- Alex Arobba asked how the federal IHS facilities fit into the consultation process. Brenda clarified that in this context the IHS facilities are providers similarly to the other health clinics and so are included as a stakeholder in the process.
- Julie Willcuts asked if it possible to have a tribal specific liaison in the Medicaid claims unit? Yvette Thomas, Deputy Director, Division of Medical Services, DSS indicated we will research that and follow up.
- Cathy Jeffries asked for clarification on Community Health Workers (CHW) and billing for transportation. Matthew indicated that enrolled community transportation providers can bill for transportation services as part of that benefit. The CHW benefit does not include transportation as a billable service. Matthew provided an overview of Medicaid CHW coverage changes.
- Alex Arobba asked if IHS requesting interpretation of rules or technical assistance is considered consultation?

Matthew indicated that this would be technical assistance similar to the technical assistance provided to other enrolled Medicaid providers.

### **Quarterly Report of Tribal Medicaid Expenditures**

Matthew walked the group through the expenditures report and asked for feedback regarding the report including suggested changes. Quarterly reports of Tribal Medicaid Expenditures can be found online on the [Medicaid Tribal Consultation Website](#). Brenda asked members if additional information would be helpful to tribes in reviewing the reports.

- Starla Eleson asked if trends and visuals can be added to these reports. DSS will work on incorporating this idea into the report.
- Lisa Schlosser asked if the report that outlines the FMAP care coordination savings breaks out information by IHS and tribal provider. DSS will work on providing this information.

### **State Plan Amendments**

Matthew Ballard provided an overview of the Medicaid state plan amendments (SPA) process. Renae Hericks, Policy and Programs Manager, Division of Medical Services, DSS provided an overview of SPA 23-0015 regarding postpartum financial claiming. This SPA establishes a proxy methodology to account for the proportion of individuals covered under the extended postpartum coverage option who would otherwise be eligible for the adult group Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP). Renae gave an overview of the anticipated SPAs including hospital presumptive eligibility and the pregnancy/maternal health home program.

A complete list of SPAs can be found on [Medicaid Tribal Consultation Website](#).

- Lisa Schlosser asked what hospital presumptive eligibility is. Mary Johnle indicated that it allows hospitals to provide make Medicaid eligibility determination. Hospitals are required to maintain 90 percent accuracy. No hospitals in South Dakota currently use this process, which may be due to the quick Medicaid application processing time.

### **Medicaid Expansion**

Mary Johnle, Medicaid Eligibility Program Administrator, Division of Economic Assistance, DSS, Brenda, and Yvette presented on Medicaid Expansion including eligibility and enrollment, claims payment, and customer support. As of July 1, 2023, 1,715 were approved for Medicaid Expansion. Brenda indicated that DSS posts enrollment numbers statewide and by county each month.

Yvette gave the update that professional claims can now be submitted. Institutional claims will still deny but are anticipated to be open for submission in October or November. The Medicaid Portal can be used to check eligibility.

More information can be found on the slides on the [Medicaid Tribal Consultation Website](#) and the [DSS Statistical Information website](#).

- Roxanne Two Bulls asked how long after expansion will the process be rolled up and eligibility and claims processes become routine?

Brenda indicated that the eligibility application and provider claims process are the same. Eligibility groups such as the expansion group have to be tracked due to different federal claim matching rates.

- Julie Willcuts asked how to help someone with SNAP who you believe may be eligible for Medicaid under expansion enroll in Medicaid?

Mary Johnle indicated that current processes for benefit specialist already facilitate the review for Medicaid eligibility. Individuals may also contact their benefit specialist if they would like to be evaluated for Medicaid eligibility.

- Kathi Mueller indicated that if providers think an expansion recipient may qualify for the Health Home Program, they will likely need to request manual tiering due to a lack of claims history. Providers can find more information regarding manual tiering in the [Manual Health Home Tiering Document](#).

### **Medicaid Public Health Emergency Unwinding**

Mary Johnle provided a status update on Medicaid's plan to return to normal operations after the public health emergency also known as unwinding. As of July 1, there has been a 24 percent reduction in Medicaid enrollment in South Dakota. Of those disenrolled, 4,800 appeared to be eligible for Medicaid Expansion, 12 percent have reapplied and been found eligible for Medicaid Expansion or another program.

Medicaid is still encouraging providers to remind recipients to make sure their contact information is up to date with their local DSS office, to report any changes in circumstances such as income or changes in household members, and to open all mail from DSS. Providers can help recipients with completing [change report forms](#) and faxing or emailing them to [local offices](#).

Slides can be found on the [Medicaid Tribal Consultation Website](#).

- Travis Johns indicated they have seen some issues with the unwinding and the disability group and SSI recipients, how should we proceed?

Mary Johnle indicated to contact the Division of Economic Assistance state office staff to help review this. They can be contacted at 605.773.4678 first.

### **Maternal Health Home**

Valerie Kelly, Pregnancy Health Home Manager, Division of Medical Services, DSS provided an update on the new maternal/pregnancy health home program DSS is working to implement. The stakeholder group has begun meeting to begin work on the development of the program. The initial meeting focused on defining provider requirements for enrollment. Valerie asked for feedback regarding this topic.

Slides can be found on the [Medicaid Tribal Consultation Website](#).

- Roxanne Two Bulls indicated that at Native Women's Health Care there are some Nurse Practitioners with experience that would like to help with deliveries but would potentially not meet the criteria if there are additional requirements regarding.
- Tiffany Larson indicated additional requirements for Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants may be too restrictive based on the number of providers in South Dakota right now.
- Starla Eleson asked if the state be able to host the specialty training so that it is equitable and consistent?

Valerie Kelly indicated that could be explored with the South Dakota Department of Health.

- Kathi Mueller indicated that tribal providers enrolled in this program will be paid with the encounter rate in addition to the per member per month reimbursement methodology.
- Valerie Kelly indicated that the next stakeholder meeting is August 8, 2023.

### **Tribal Reports**

Roxanne Two Bulls- Native Women's Health Care moved into the Oyate Health Center and are looking forward to more shared work with the two teams.

Nico Sheppard- Oyate Health Center is growing into the new space by hiring for several positions. Most recently they expanded the benefit coordinator team from 2 to 6 employees, all working very closely with Medicaid expansion. The clinic is adopting the Nuka system of care, which is a patient centered approach. The health center has also been working to correct for employees operating under their licensure.

### **Indian Health Services and Urban Indian Health Reports**

Alex Arobba- IHS nationally is very interested in South Dakota Medicaid unwinding and expansion. He also indicated he would like to continue to work with Medicaid regarding data sharing.

### **Public Input**

There was no public input.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

The next tribal consultation meeting will occur October 24, 2023. It will be hosted by South Dakota Urban Indian Health at their new Pierre facility.